News-item, "One among every 100 Indians is a nut"

771. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "One among every 100 Indians is a nut", which appeared in the Deccan Chronicle, dated the 8th October, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any authentic study has been carried out to confirm the news-report, as mentioned above;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to address the problem highlighted in the above mentioned news-item?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(d) The Government has already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level, by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.

Condition of mortuary in AIIMS

772. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the mortuary in the AIIMS is in a very bad condition and the deep freezer was out of order for a long time;

(b) if so, since when the deep freezer was not working and the reasons for not repairing/replacing the same; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to keep clean and maintain properly the mortuary of such a prestigious Hospital in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) As per the information provided by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Institute has one walk in type of Cold room, which is maintained by Engineering Services Department of AIIMS. In addition, the Institute has two cold storage cabinets that are not functioning optimally for last few months. Efforts are on to finalise the Annual Maintenance contract for regular maintenance and upkeep of these cold storage cabinets. The Institute has no deep freezer.

Death of infants in King George Medical College, Lucknow

773. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shocking incident of infants' death in the King George Medical College, Lucknow recently for want of oxygen;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into callousness of the hospital authorities resulting in the death of infants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government with regard thereto and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per the information furnished by the State Government and corroborated by the findings of the Central Team, the death of infants' at Neonatal intensive care unit at King George Medical College, Lucknow was due to the serious primary condition of the patients and not due to lack of oxygen.

(b) to (d) A Central Team of Experts has inquired into the matter and has since submitted its report. The salient features of the report are annexed in the Statement.